

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 04229 191620Z

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS YAOUNDE 4229

FOR IBS VOA NEWS COVERAGE DESK ATTENTION AFRICAN DIVISION

PASS IPS AFRICA BRANCH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT:

FOR THE PAST FIVE DAYS YAOUNDE HAS BEEN THE CAPITAL OF HISTORY AS SOME ONE HUNDRED HISTORIANS FROM THIRTY AFRICAN COUNTRIES GATHERED FOR THE SECOND CONGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN HISTORIANS, LED BY SEKENE MODY CISSOKO THEIR PRESIDENT, A MILIAN AND PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR. OBSERVERS FROM THE UNITED STATES, OTHER COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ALSO ATTENDED. THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE WAS "HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT" AND EMPHASIZED THE ROLE OF HISTORY TEACHING IN EFFORTS TO AWAKEN MASS AWARENESS OF AFRICAN AUTHENTICITY. PRESIDENT SEKENE CISSOKO CITED THREE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION SINCE ITS CREATION IN 1972; 1. IT IS NOW KNOWN AND RECOGNIZED IN AFRICA AND IN THE WORLD; 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF HISTORIANS HAVE BEEN FORMED IN ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND, 3. THE BILINGUAL AFRICAN HISTORY REVUE OF THE ASSOCIATION, "AFRICA ZAMANI," HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH FOUR ISSUES HAVING APPEARED TO DATE.

CAMEROON PRESIDENT EL HADJ AHMADOU AHIRO OFFICIALLY OPENED THE CONGRESS ON DECEMBER 17 WITH A SPEECH IN WHICH HE PRAISED THE ASSOCIATION FOR EFFORTS TO BREAK DOWN LINGUISTIC UNCLASSIFIED

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BARRIERS AMONG AFRICAN PEOPLES: "AFRICAN HISTORY AS ACTUAL

LIVING HISTORY IS BASICALLY A WINDOW THROUGH WHICH WE SEE THE  
UNITY OF OUR PEOPLES AND A SPECIAL CATALYST FOR MAKING US AWARE  
OF THAT UNITY."

AMONG THE PRESENTATIONS BY DISTINGUISHED AFRICAN HISTO-  
RIANS WAS A FOUR HOUR LECTURE AND DISCUSSION BY CHEIK ANTA  
DIOP WHO FINDS THE ORIGINS OF WORLD CIVILIZATION IN EGYPT  
AND THE ORIGINS OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION IN AFRICA.

AMONG OTHER PAPERS PRESENTED WERE "AFRICAN HISTORY IN  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS" BY LIBERIA'S DORIS BANKS HENRIES, AND  
"THE NATIONALIST PHENOMENON YESTERDAY AND TODAY" BY  
CAMEROON'S ADALBERT OWONA. OWONA WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT  
OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE COMING YEAR.

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